

World Schools Debate: Challenges students by having them debate multiple topics at each tournament. These topics change **every round** and include impromptu debates. World Schools Debate (WSD) is a speaking competition between two teams of three, the Proposition (also called the Government) and the Opposition. Debaters should display solid logic, reasoning, and depth of analysis. Debaters should communicate ideas with clarity, organization, eloquence, and professional decorum with the goal of persuading the everyday “informed citizen.”

- Content: Covers the arguments that are used, divorced from the speaking.
- Style: Covers the way the speaker speaks and deals with things like inflection, tone, clarity, etc.
- Strategy: Covers whether the speaker understands what are the issues of the debate the structure and timing of the speaker's speech.
- POI: Give more points to speakers who do a good job of answering and giving.

Speech Times

CONSTRUCTIVE SPEECHES

1 Prop—5 minutes

1 Opp—5 minutes

2 Prop—5 minutes

2 Opp—5 minutes

3 Prop—5 minutes

3 Opp—5 minutes

REPLY SPEECHES by 1 or 2 Speaker

Opp Reply—3 minutes

Prop Reply—3 minutes

Points of Information (POI)

A point of information (POI) is offered in the course of a speech by a member of the opposing team. The speaker may either accept the point or decline it. If accepted, the opponent may make a short point or ask a short question that deals with some issue in the debate. It is, if you like, a formal interjection.

1. POIs can only be offered during the constructive speeches, not the reply speeches.
2. The first and last minute of each speech are protected which means that POIs can't be asked during this time. Therefore, POIs can only be offered between minute 1 and 4.
3. A POI is offered by standing and saying "Point of information;" or something similar.
4. The POI must be brief. 10 to 15 seconds is the norm.
5. The speaker on the floor is not obliged to accept every point.
6. More than one member of the opposing team may rise simultaneously.
7. The speaker on the floor may decline all or some, and may choose which one to take. The others then sit down.
8. However, continuous offering by a team really amounts to excessive interruption and is considered bad form. This should incur penalties from the judge for the team members involved.